GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1418
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
PENALTY ON RELIANCE INFOCOM
Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has imposed any penalty on Reliance Infocom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company has paid the said penalty; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) M/S Reliance Infocom Ltd. (RIL) tampered the Calling Line Identification of certain incoming ISD calls and regenerated and re-routed the calls as domestic calls during 2004, thereby avoiding the payment of statutory Access Deficit Charges. Union of India issued the Show Cause Notices to M/s RIL regarding tampering of Calling Line Identification (CLI) of incoming ISD calls to evade Access Deficit Charge (ADC). Government after following the due process as per provisions of the Licence Agreements levied a penalty of Rs.150 crores on M/s RIL (Rs.50 crores each against the Unified Access Services Licences of Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata service areas). M/s RIL appealed in the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), however, the appeal was dismissed. M/s RIL further filed a Civil Appeal in the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India against the judgement of TDSAT and the matter is subjudice.

(c) M/s RIL paid the penalty of Rs. 150 crores in March, 2005.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.